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CHARLES F. BRANNAN,
Secretary of Agriculture

(Biographical Material)

Charles Franklin Brannan of Colorado was sworn in as the 14th Secretary of Agriculture on June 2, 1948, after serving four years as Assistant Secretary. President Truman appointed him to his new post on May 24, 1948, and the Senate confirmed the appointment May 28.

Secretary Brannan throughout his career has dealt with problems involving natural resources. His private law practice in Denver from 1929 until 1935 included considerable work in the field of irrigation and mining law. In 1935, as Assistant Regional Attorney in the Resettlement Administration, he arranged the purchase of drought-stricken land in the Mountain States. Between 1937 and 1941, as Regional Attorney in the Department's Office of the Solicitor, he aided in the formation of irrigation districts and other cooperative projects undertaken by farmers to help solve their land and water problems. Mr. Brannan administered a program of water facilities loans as well as supervised credit for individual families from November 1941 until April 1944 while he was Regional Director of the Farm Security Administration (now Farmers Home Administration) in the States of Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. In April 1944 he was called to Washington to become Assistant Administrator of Farm Security Administration, and two months later he was appointed by President Roosevelt as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

As Assistant Secretary, he carried general responsibility for work which the Department does directly and in cooperation with other agencies in flood control, development of water facilities, and management of public domain grazing and timber lands. During a period of postwar food and feed shortages he also served as director of the Department's Office for Food and Feed Conservation.

(more)

While Assistant Secretary, Mr. Brannan served as Vice Chairman of the Department's Program and Policy Committee in formulating recommendations which were presented to Congress in 1947 on long-range agricultural policy and programs. As Secretary in 1949 he presented for the Administration further recommendations on price supports aimed at increasing the consumption of farm products and maintaining farm purchasing power.

Mr. Brannan has served as Vice Chairman and is now Chairman of the Board of Directors of Commodity Credit Corporation. He has carried out several assignments in the international sphere: Agricultural adviser to the United States Delegation at the San Francisco organizing conference of the United Nations; delegate to the Ninth International Conference of American States at Bogota, Colombia; head of U. S. delegation to the Inter-American Conference on Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources at Denver, Colorado, of which he was elected President; head of U. S. delegation to and elected Chairman of the Fourth Annual Session of the U. N. Food and Agriculture Organization held in Washington, D.C.; member of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources; and adviser to the U. S. delegate to the U. N. Economic and Social Council.

On January 7, 1949, President Truman designated Secretary Brannan to be in charge of presenting the national economic stabilization program to Congress.

Mr. Brannan was born in Denver on August 23, 1903. He was graduated from the University of Denver Law School in 1929, and now holds honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws from the University of Denver and Doctor of Science from the Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College. He also serves as honorary member of the National Council of Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Brannan formerly was part owner of a cattle and grain ranch near Eads, in Yuma County, Colorado.

His wife is the former Eda V. Seltzer of Denver to whom he was married in 1932. Their home in Washington is at the Westchester Apartments.

